

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of November 17, 2004 is respectfully requested.

In order to make necessary editorial corrections, the entire specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised. As the revisions are quite extensive, the amendments to the specification and abstract have been incorporated into the attached substitute specification and abstract. For the Examiner's benefit, a marked-up copy of the specification indicating the changes made thereto is also enclosed. No new matter has been added by the revisions. Entry of the substitute specification is thus respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 as being unpatentable over the Cortopassi reference (USP 6,707,942) in view of the Browning reference (USP6,707,581). However, as indicated above, original claims 1-4 have now been cancelled and replaced with new claims 5-14. For the reasons discussed below, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

New independent claim 5 is directed to a handy scanner that comprises a handy scanner body including a read section on the *bottom surface* thereof. A relay box has *a recess for receiving the handy scanner body so as to protect the bottom surface of the handy scanner body*, and the relay box is operable to relay signals between the handy scanner body and a device. A first cord is provided for connecting the handy scanner body to the relay box, a terminal is provided for establishing an electrical connection with the device, and a second cord is provided for connecting the relay box to the terminal.

As explained on page 7, lines 16-23 of the original specification, the handy scanner as recited in new independent claim 5 provides several significant advantages. Firstly, the handy scanner body is received in the *recess* of the relay box in such a way as to protect the sensitive read section on the *bottom surface* of the handy scanner body against, for example, scratches and dirt. Furthermore, because the handy scanner body can be received within the recess of the relay box, transportation of the handy scanner is much easier.

The Cortopassi reference discloses an apparatus for improved computer-controlled handwriting recognition. The Examiner noted that the Cortopassi reference discloses a cradle 60 (i.e., a relay box) coupled between a bus 54 (i.e., a second cord) and a handheld computer 100 (i.e., a handy scanner body). The Examiner further asserted that the Cortopassi reference discloses that the cradle 60 (i.e., relay box) has a recess, as apparently illustrated in Figure 4, for receiving the handy scanner body. However, the Examiner acknowledged that the Cortopassi reference does not disclose a handy scanner body that has a read section on a bottom surface thereof.

Nonetheless, the Examiner asserted that the Browning reference discloses a personal digital assistant (PDA) 10 having a scan head 16, and it would have been obvious to modify the Cortopassi reference in view of the disclosure in the Browning reference to obtain the invention recited in original independent claim 1. However, it is submitted that the combination of the Cortopassi reference and the Browning reference does not disclose or suggest the handy scanner as recited in new independent claim 5, as explained below.

Firstly, although the Examiner asserted that the cradle 60 of the Cortopassi reference corresponds to the relay box of the present invention and includes a recess, there is no description in the Cortopassi reference of such a recess. Instead, the Cortopassi reference simply explains that the “system 100 is slid into the cradle 60 in an upright position” (see column 7, lines 36-37), and Figure 4 does not illustrate a *recess* for receiving a handy scanner body. As explained above, the recess is an important feature for protecting the read section on the bottom surface of the handy scanner body. However, because the handheld computer 100 to be mounted on the cradle 60 of the Cortopassi reference does not include a read section as noted by the Examiner, there would be no need for such protection.

Secondly, the Examiner noted that the Cortopassi reference does not disclose a handy scanner body having a read section on a bottom surface thereof, but noted that the Browning reference discloses a scan head 16. However, the scan head 16 of the Browning reference is located at a *side* of the PDA 10, rather than on a *bottom surface* (see column 2, lines 60-67). Moreover, the combination of the Cortopassi reference and the Browning reference does not disclose or suggest a recess in a relay box that receives a handy scanner body *so as to protect the bottom surface of the*

handy scanner body. In fact, the combination of the Cortopassi reference and the Browning reference does not even suggest an arrangement of a relay box and handy scanner body that provides *any* type of protection for the handy scanner body. As noted above, the combination of the recess and the handy scanner body received within the recess so as to protect the bottom surface is important to prevent damage to the sensitive read section.

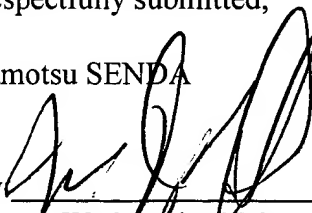
As explained above, the combination of the Cortopassi reference and the Browning reference do not, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a relay box having a *recess* for receiving a handy scanner body *so as to protect a bottom surface of the handy scanner body*. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify or combine the references so as to obtain the invention as recited in new independent claim 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 5 and the claims that depend therefrom are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamotsu SENDA

By



W. Douglas Hahm
Registration No. 44,142
Attorney for Applicant

WDH/gtg
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
February 16, 2005